CO-OPERATION.

19. During the current year the Co-operative movement showed all round progress. The number of Societies has increased to 3121 with a membership of 4,36,000. These Societies have a total paid up share capital of Rs. 92.21 lakhs with a reserve fund of Rs. 29.03 lakhs. The working capital rose to Rs. 353.78 lakhs. With a view to stabilise the agricultural credit structure, 15 Village Banks have been organised in important centres and the services of one paid secretary at Government expense were given to each of these Banks. Sixteen Marketing Societies, 19 Farming Societies and 10 Multipurpose Societies were also organised during the year.

A State Warehousing Corporation suggested in the Rural Credit Survey Report is proposed to be constituted. The main functions of this Corporation include the acquiring and building of godowns at important market centres, and the running of licensed warehouses to do distribution work. The State and the Central Government will participate in the share capital of the Corporation to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs each. It is also proposed to create a Co-operative Development Fund with a corpus of Rs. 10 lakhs. The fund will be utilised for making long term loans to the State Government to enable them to subscribe to the share capital of Co-operative Societies. The State will contribute Rs. 1 lakh to the fund in 1956-57 and an equal amount will be received from the National Co-operative Development Fund. A Relief and Guarantee Fund will also be constituted as recommended in the Rural Credit Survey Report, to give grants by way of relief to Co-operative Credit Institutions for the purpose of writing off irrecoverable arrears which have arisen from causes beyond the control of these institutions. The State Government will contribute Rs. 0.5 lakhs to this Fund in the ensuing year.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND NATIONAL EXTENSION SERVICE.

20. The Community Projects and National Extension Service Blocks have been carrying on a programme of intensive development of the villages. They can already lay claim to a large amount of success in combining the natural advantages of the rural areas with modern amenities and in making life in these areas fuller and happier.

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